GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2211
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
ESTABLISHMENT OF SEED BANK
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently reported about the scarcity of high quality seeds in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to establish a seed bank to store seeds of high quality; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir. Distribution of certified/quality seed has reached the level of about 85 lakh quintals in the year 1999-2000 when compared with 54.32 takh quintals in the year 1994-1995. The target of quality seeds set for the year 2001-02 is 109 lakh quintals. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research produces about 24,000 quintals of breeder seed of crop plants every year in addition to breeder seed of horticultural crops.

(b) A Central Sector Scheme for Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank is under implementation since 1999-2000 and onwards. The basic objective of the scheme is to make available seed for meeting any contingent demand and also to develop infrastructure for production/distribution of seeds.

(c) The Scheme is being implemented through National Seed Croporation, State Farms Corporation of India and State Seed Corporation of 12 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Kamataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under the scheme, certified/foundation seeds of crops like Paddy, Wheat, Sorghum, Bajra, Maize, Gram, Peas, Moong, Lentil, Arhar, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, Toria/Mustard, Cotton and Sesamum are being maintained in the Seed Bank for meeting any contingent demand of seed. For North East States, a separate provision has been made in the Scheme for maintenance of Seed Bank. Under the Scheme, funds are provided to participating seed corporations for maintenance cost of seed including revolving funds for procurement of seed and also for construction of seed store, etc. Provision also exists for establishment of a data bank and information system under the Scheme. The physical achievements of the scheme during recent years are given in Annexure- 1.

Annexure-I

(Quintals)

S. No.	Year	Foundation Seed		Certified Seed	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1.	1999-2000	4147	3937	48050	42754
2.	2000-2001	7748	6029	98000	93393
3.	2001-2002	10002	7552	130522	107639+
4.	North East States		14075		13525

(2001- 2002)

+ Tentative